

What is claimed is:

1. An electrical connector comprising:  
first and second connectors which are connectable  
to each other in a predetermined connecting direction;

5 the first connector comprising a housing, a  
plurality of contacts supported by the housing, and a  
metal reinforcement member fixed to the housing and  
extending in a first direction perpendicular to the  
connecting direction;

10 the reinforcement member including a pair of  
engagement projections;

the second connector comprising an engagement  
groove engageable with the reinforcement member;

15 wherein the first and second connectors are  
permitted to be offset from each other in the first  
direction intersecting the connecting direction and  
guided with respect to each other for connection thereof  
when the pair of engagement projections of the  
reinforcement member are introduced into the engagement  
20 groove.

2. The electrical connector according to claim 1,  
wherein the second connector comprises a housing,  
and a plurality of contacts supported by the housing  
thereof,

25 wherein the engagement groove is provided in the

housing of the second connector.

3. The electrical connector according to claim 1,  
wherein the reinforcement member includes two  
reinforcement members, and the engagement groove includes  
5 two engagement grooves,

wherein the two reinforcement members are  
respectively provided in association with the two  
engagement grooves.

4. The electrical connector according to claim 3,  
10 wherein the housing of the first connector  
comprises a pair of opposed side walls extending in the  
first direction, and a pair of fixture grooves  
respectively extending along the side walls,

wherein the two reinforcement members are  
15 respectively fixed in the corresponding fixture grooves  
of the housing of the first connector.

5. The electrical connector according to claim 3,  
wherein the housing of the first connector has a  
generally rectangular shape as seen in the connecting  
20 direction,

wherein the engagement projections of the two  
reinforcement members are disposed in the vicinity of  
four corners of the rectangular housing of the first  
connector respectively.

25 6. The electrical connector according to claim 1,

wherein the engagement projections of the reinforcement member respectively include first oblique guide surfaces which are inclined in opposite directions,

5 wherein the engagement groove associated with the reinforcement member includes a pair of second oblique guide surfaces which are inclined in opposite directions,

wherein the first oblique guide surfaces and the second oblique guide surfaces are inclined in opposite directions;

10 wherein the first oblique guide surfaces are engageable with the corresponding second oblique guide surfaces for guiding the first and second connectors with respect to each other for connection of the first and second connectors.

15 7. The electrical connector according to claim 6,  
wherein the housing of the first connector has a connection end face to be opposed to the second connector,  
wherein the engagement projections respectively include portions projecting from the connection end face  
20 of the housing of the first connector,

wherein the first oblique guide surfaces are respectively provided on at least the corresponding projecting portions.

25 8. The electrical connector according to claim 6,  
wherein a distance between outer edges of the pair of

engagement projections of the reinforcement member is smaller than a distance between outer edges of the pair of second oblique guide surfaces of the corresponding engagement groove.

5 9. The electrical connector according to claim 4, wherein the reinforcement members each include a main portion extending along the corresponding fixture groove,

10 wherein the engagement projections of each of the reinforcement members project from opposite ends of the main portion in the first direction.

10. The electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein the first connector comprises a connector mounted on a circuit board;

15 wherein the reinforcement member is soldered to the circuit board.